

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370842)
 FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332)
 SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was
 SM-C

DATE: 5/3/55

b7C

Rerep of SA [REDACTED] NY, 2/4/55.

1- Subject resides 203 West 14th St., NYC, and is employed intermittently in the radio industry, NYC. Subject is a member of the Negro race.

2- Subject is unmarried.

3- Subject reliably reported as speaker at a meeting held on 8/10/46, in NYC, sponsored by the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America Organization; was a delegate at the First Annual Convention of the Communist Veterans of America, Turners Arena, Washington, D.C. in May, 1947; attended an executive meeting of the CP at the Ben Davis Club, 2315 Seventh Ave., NYC, 9/20/47; attended a meeting of the CP celebrating the Marxist Centennial at Madison Square Garden, NYC, 9/18/47; was employed 2/4/49, as a copy boy by the "Daily Worker"; attended the Harlem Regional Convention of the CP at the Elks Club, 15 West 126th St., NYC, 6/26 and 27/48; attended a "Daily Worker" sponsored dance at the Penthouse Ballroom, 13 Astor Place, NYC, 12/11/48; was treasurer of the "Daily Worker" unit of the American Newspaper Guild, 1/18/49; was a member of IWO Lodge 691, Harlem, NYC, 4/17/50; was librarian at the Freedom of the Press, Inc., publishers of the "Daily Worker", 1946-1951, and has written feature articles for the "Daily Worker"; subscribed to "Jewish Life", from 5/22/47 to 5/22/48.

4- Does not apply.

5- No information available.

6- No information available.

7- Information regarding the above organizations and persons connected therewith.

COMM - FBI
 MAY 10 1955
 MAILED 20

Bureau authority is requested to interview subject in accordance with existing instructions relating to interviews of security subjects. If this subject is cooperative, no affirmative steps will be taken during the initial interview to direct his activities, but a separate communication will be directed to the Bureau setting forth the results of the interview, and requesting authority to recontact the subject as a potential security informant.

RM APPROVED

Date

RECORDED - 63

63

MAY 11 1955

EX-125

MAY 5 1955

#930169

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370842) *DATE: 6/17/55*
 FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332) *6/17/55*
 SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was SM-C *23*

Re N.Y. letter to Director, 5/3/55.

b7C Captioned subject was contacted by SAS [redacted] on 6/8/55 as he approached his residence. He appeared surprised but not nervous. After ascertaining his identity, subject was apprised of the Agents identities and also of the fact they wished to talk to him. Subject agreed to talk to the Agents and accompanied them to a Bureau car, parked at a discreet distance from his residence.

of CRUSE advised he was employed by the FISHER STEVENS CO., Clifton, New Jersey and left his residence at approximately 7 A.M., and returned to his residence at 6 P.M.. He advised he did not mind discussing his past activities in what he termed "The Communist Political Movement," but added he did not wish to state whether or not he had ever been a CP member and denied any present CP membership or affiliation. He admitted, however, that he had attended several meetings which he considered or "suspicioned" to be CP meetings. He stated he considered these meetings to have been sponsored by the CP and attended by CP members because CP membership or sympathies with CP movement were necessary to be admitted to them. He advised also that BEN DAVIS, who had admitted CP membership to him, was present at a goodly number of these meetings. CRUSE advised he first became interested in "The Communist Political Movement" while he was stationed at Camp George Meade in Maryland while still in the U. S. Army. He stated he met another enlisted man, whose name he could not recall, and they spoke at length concerning the rights of Negroes in the Army and the U. S. and this individual interested him in the United Negro Veterans of America. He stated he considered this his first contact with a person in this movement.

*04 NY
interviewing
6/17/55* CRUSE advised he then joined numerous organizations such as the Civil Rights Congress 1948, Council on African Affairs 1948, American Labor Party Club 1948, and the International Workers Order 1946 through 1949 or 1950. He stated he joined many of these organizations because the fee was nominal and most of the people he was then associating with joined these organizations also. CRUSE added that to the best of his knowledge he did not ever attend any meetings of the Civil Rights Congress and only joined the International Workers Order for the health insurance benefits it offered.

1-NY (100-94014)

WAB:GHM

RECORDED-89
INDEXED-89

7 JUN 20 1955

*Interview from
Jugoslav 6/21/55
100*

3-1
#330169

Letter to Director
N.Y. 100-87332

CRUSE advised he had attended several meetings at the Ben Davis Club of the CP and also at the Lincoln Douglas Club of the CP in New York City. He added he attended a training school sponsored by the CP in 1948 or the early part of 1949. He stated this school was held both at the Jefferson School of Social Science and in a hall on Astor Place, both located in NYC. He stated this course was based on the Negro question in the U. S. and was made up of different classes. CRUSE advised he was interested in what he could accomplish for his race and, at the time he was active in "The Political Movement", it was his belief the CP was the only organization helping to further these interests. He advised he worked for the "Daily Worker" and the Freedom of the Press from 1946 to 1951 and he obtained this position through the intercession of [redacted] N.Y. (ph) not further identified, whom he believed to be a CP member. CRUSE stated he was also a member of the "Daily Worker" unit of the American Newspaper Guild but was not an officer at any time.

It should be noted that former [redacted] advised on 1/18/49 subject was treasurer of the "Daily Worker" unit of the American Newspaper Guild.

CRUSE stated he went to Washington, D. C. to picket Congress in 1950 with one of the "Committees to Save WILLIE McGEE" and also attended a Progressive Party Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1948 but did not ever join the Progressive Party or attend any of its functions.

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CRUSE stated that in 1950 he began to realize that the CP was not helping and could not help the Negro race and he began to disassociate himself with the movement and the individuals connected with it.

CRUSE advised he still meets individuals occasionally who he suspects are still in the Party but added he did not wish to reveal their names or the names of past associates, as he had made up his mind in this matter "when I got out of the Party." It was pointed out to the subject that he again had a chance to serve his country and it was his duty to reveal the names of these individuals who may at some time do the U. S. great harm. Subject however, seemed to have some mental reservations about being labeled an informer.

CRUSE, at this point in the interview, stated he had recently met [redacted] in a store in lower Manhattan and [redacted] looked ten years older than he actually was and seemed to be nervous, suspicious of everyone, and completely mixed up. CRUSE advised he had

Letter to Director
NY 100-87332

b7C

met [redacted] previously but was unable to recall if he met him at any functions sponsored by the CP.

CRUSE indicated he was a quiet person and was wary of furnishing the names of former associates for fear of this disclosure becoming known and then he would be bothered by investigators for different committees, etc. He was advised that any information he furnished the Bureau concerning other individuals would be maintained in strictest confidence and would not be disclosed at any time without his consent.

CRUSE was questioned concerning his refusal to sign a loyalty oath in connection with his request for a passport in 1952. He stated that at the time he requested this passport he wanted to leave all of his associates and the "CP Political Movement" and thought going to school in another country would be a good excuse for severing his relationships. He advised he was not actually against signing a loyalty oath and would not be against signing one at this time, should it ever be requested, but he was mad at the State Department for believing he was going to use his passport to further CP aims. He added he realizes now the State Department had every reason to believe he had an ulterior motive in requesting a passport in view of his previous action in regard to the CP.

When the interview was concluded subject advised he would not mind being recontacted at a later date concerning matters with which he was formerly connected, but requested he be contacted by the interviewing agents although not giving any specific reason for this request.

It should be noted subject was very cordial and appeared to want to cooperate but had some mental reservations about being labeled an informer. However, it is believed if the subject is recontacted and his complete confidence gained he will eventually become completely cooperative and may in time consent to become active if feasible.

In view of the above facts UACB the New York Office will recontact the subject within thirty days from the date of this letter in an attempt to gain his complete confidence and obtain additional information with the view to developing him as a PSI in the future if deemed advisable by the Bureau. No attempt will be made at this time to develop subject as a PSI and the results of the interview will be furnished the Bureau and Bureau permission will be requested before he is recontacted.

Letter to Director
NY 100-87332

Inasmuch as subject was cooperative to some extent and it believed he may be developed as a PSI and possibly once again become active in the CP, a report is not being submitted at this time setting out the results of the interview which have been furnished in this letter. However, after subsequent contacts with the subject, a report will be submitted setting forth all pertinent information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370842)

DATE: 8/3/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was
SM - C

Re SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

Succinct Resume of Case

In the 5/8/47 issue of the "Daily Worker", on page three column five, an article entitled "Communist Vets Meet in Capitol Today" states HAROLD CRUSE was one of five hundred delegates to attend the first annual convention of the Communist Veterans of America, which met in Turner's Arena in Washington, D.C. This meeting was called by ROBERT THOMPSON, New York State Chairman of the CP.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1947-1949 that subject: was a writer and lecturer for the "Daily Worker"; was present at the Marxist Centennial Celebration held 9/18/47 at Madison Square Garden, NYC. [redacted] b7C

[redacted] attended the Harlem Regional Convention of the CP held in the Elks Hall, 15 West 126th Street, NYC; completed a thirty week course at the Jefferson School of Social Science 1949. Informant advised on 10/30/48 he was of the opinion the subject may be inclined to be dangerous in the event of a national emergency because of his fanatical support of the Communist Program.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1949 and 1951 that subject: was treasurer of the "Daily Worker" Unit of the American Newspaper Guild; wrote a letter to [redacted]

[redacted] Informant advised on 6/20/50 subjects name appeared on a list which, according to the informant, were noted to be CP members or CP functionaries.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the

RM

WAB:HAN

AUG 18 1955

RECORDED - 34
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/00 BY SP-6 RAC/MAC

100-370842-11

#930169

Security Index card cancelled

CANCELLED

AUG 15 1955

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b7Dcc @ New York
8-12-55
over

Letter to Director
NY 100-87332

past, advised on 2/25/54 the subject was a participant in the 1951 May Day Parade sponsored by the United May Day Committee and held in New York City on 5/1/55.

Subject interviewed 6/8/55 and admitted he attended several meetings closed to anyone not a CP member or sympathetic to CP cause 1946-1951 when he "left the Party". Subject admitted working for the "Daily Worker", attending Marxist Centennial celebration, joining Civil Rights Congress, joining Council on African Affairs, and writing articles for the "Daily Worker". Subject was cooperative to some extent but failed to furnish names of any former associates or individuals he knew or considered to be CP members. //

Recommendation

Delete from SI. *James*

Subject by his own admission "left the Party in 1951" which of course, indicated he was a member until that time. However, there is no information available indicating subversive activity on the part of the subject since 1951. Although it is realized subject, by being a CP member as of 1951, would ordinarily be retained on the SI, in view of the fact subject was cooperative when interviewed and it is believed he may prove more cooperative at future interviews, subject is being recommended for deletion from the SI.

Detcom Tabbing

- 1) Subject is presently tabbed for Detcom and Comsab.
- 2) Subject has not been approved for Detcom tabbing under the new criteria in SAC letter 55-12(A), and security index cards have not been received from the Bureau bearing the stamp "Detcom" in large red letters.
- 3) Subject being recommended for deletion from SI.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370842)

DATE: 8/17/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332) ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was
SM-C

Re New York letter to Bureau dated 8/3/55

By above relet, Bureau authorized cancelling the Security Index cards formerly maintained for this subject at New York.

It is therefore requested that the Security Flash formerly placed for this subject in favor of the New York Office under FBI No. 56 330 B now be cancelled.

RM

CLS:MXW

RECORDED-32 100-370842-12

TO AUG 19 1955

EX-121

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/00 BY SP-6 AM/MLC

71 SEP 1 1955

#930169

ONE
OFF/21mep
INT/21

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-370842)

DATE: 9/15/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was
SM - CRerep SA [redacted] 9/15/55, NY, and
NYlet to Director 8/3/55.Enclosed are four copies of the report of SA [redacted]
9/15/55, NY.

The referenced letter advised that the subject would be recontacted unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, to obtain additional information from the subject. In the absence of instructions from the Bureau that the subject could not be recontacted, the subject was recontacted on July 13, 1955 and August 18, 1955, by SAS [redacted] and [redacted].

subject
On the earlier date the [redacted] still refused to name any of his associates in the CP, but did advise that he knew [redacted] and had attended social functions at their apartment, [redacted] NYC. He said he did not know these individuals to be CP members although he thought they were members of the CP or he would not have been invited to their apartment inasmuch as he is a Negro and they are members of the white race.

It should be noted that [redacted] is [redacted]

CRUSE also advised he knew [redacted] who is presently [redacted] and is missing. He stated that [redacted] had been in the CP for a good many years and it was his belief that [redacted] is a "plodder" in the movement and thoroughly imbued with the CP line. He added that he never attended any meetings with [redacted] but to the best of his recollection [redacted] had told him of his CP affiliations.

On 8/18/55, CRUSE advised that he held the title of Educational Director of the Lincoln Douglas Club, CP, USA.

Encs. (4)

1-NY 100-81508
1-NY 100-112559
1-NY 100-124758

RM 3 2 SEP 29 1955

WAB:JEW

RECORDED - 64

811-14

14 SEP 20 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/30/2001 BY SP4 EML/mj

#930)61

INT 1449

Letter to Director
NY 100-87332

during 1947-48, but was not very active in this roll. He added that the members seemed to think that he was a "real intellectual" and followed him fairly closely, rather than follow the leaders of the club. He stated that he heard this dissension caused concern among the higher echelon of the Party but he did not ever hear of this spoken of openly.

On August 18, 1955, CRUSE still appeared to be cooperative but advised he did not wish to name any of his associates as he had been out of the Party for approximately four years and could not state if any of these individuals were still members.

During the course of this interview it was learned that the subject is presently in the process of writing a book on Negro history, and intended to include some statements regarding the treatment of Negroes in the CP.

It should be noted further that the subject declined to furnish a signed statement and stated he was not willing to testify to any information furnished by him at any time.

Although the subject appeared to be cooperative and sincere and apparently furnished complete information concerning his CP activities, in view of the fact that he has steadfastly refused to name any of his CP associates and is presently writing a book, it is believed that further contact with this subject, or attempts to develop him as a PSI would not be profitable and could possibly cause embarrassment to the Bureau were he to include the contents of these contacts in the above-mentioned book.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 9/15/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/8-10/13/55; 7/13, 14, 18/55; 23; 9/7-9/55	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></div> new/mal
TITLE HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE was interviewed on 6/8/55, 7/13/55, and 8/18/55, and advised: he was Educational Director of the Lincoln Douglas Club, CP, USA, 1947-1948; he was a member of the ALP Club, Civil Rights Congress, Council on African Affairs in 1948, and IWO, 1946 to 1949, but did not attend meetings of these organizations; he attended a course for CP leaders at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 1948 or 1949; he was an associate of BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.

AGENCY File 64-14
 REC. REC'D 9-28-55
 DATE FORW. 9-28-55
 HOW FORW. R/S
 BY WMM/mal

DETAILS:

I BACKGROUND

a) Birth Data

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE advised on June 8, 1955, that he was born March 8, 1916, at Petersburg, Virginia. He stated his father is HANSON CRUSE and he did not know his mother, although he had been told about her.

b) Residence

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE advised on June 8, 1955, that he resides on the top floor of the apartment building located at 203 West 14th Street, New York City.

COPIES DESTROYED

R472 MAR 28 1963

CLOSURE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;">WMM</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		100-370842-13	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (4) - Bureau (100-370842) (RM) 3 - New York (100-87332)		DECLASSIFIED BY <u>SP-AM/IMC</u> INDEXED - 64	
		ON <u>3/30/2006</u> RECORDED - 64	
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CONFIDENTIAL </div>	

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NY 100-87332

c) Employment

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE advised on June 8, 1955, that he was employed by the Fisher Stevens Company, exact address unknown, Clifton, New Jersey.

CRUSE also advised on June 8, 1955, that he was employed by the "Daily Worker" and the Freedom of the Press from 1946 to 1951.

It should be noted that the "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper, and the Freedom of the Press is the publisher of the "Daily Worker".

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

a) Communist Party Membership

On June 8, 1955, July 13, 1955, and August 18, 1955, HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and [redacted], and he advised that he first became interested in the "Communist Political Movement" while he was stationed at Camp George Meade in Maryland, while in the United States Army. He stated that he met another enlisted man, whose name he could not recall, and they spoke at length concerning the rights of Negroes in the Army of the United States, and this individual interested him in the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America. He added he considered this his first contact with a person in this movement.

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It should be noted that the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On June 8, 1955, CRUSE would not admit past membership in the Communist Party, but denied any present Communist Party membership or affiliation. He admitted, however, that he considered or "suspicioned" several

NY 100-87332

meetings which he had attended to be Communist Party meetings. He stated that he considered these meetings to have been sponsored by the Communist Party and attended by Communist Party members, because membership in the Communist Party or sympathies in favor of their policies were necessary to gain admittance to these meetings.

On August 18, 1955, the subject stated that he was Educational Director of the Lincoln Douglas Club, Communist Party, USA, during 1947-1948, exact dates not recalled. He stated that he was not actually in a leadership capacity, but that there was a good deal of friction in this club, and a good many of the members supported him.

b) Communist Party Front Organizations

American Labor Party Club (ALP)
Civil Rights Congress (CRC)
Council on African Affairs (COAA)
International Workers Order (IWO)
Progressive Party (PP)

It should be noted that the CRC, COAA, and the IWO have been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on September 9, 1954, that from the time of its inception in 1936, there existed within the American Labor Party a struggle for power among three groups. These were the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and the Social Democrats. By the early 1940's, the Communist Party emerged as the controlling force within the American Labor Party in the major industrial areas in New York State. Generally these were the areas around Albany, Buffalo, Jamestown, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, the Hudson River Valley, Columbia, Dutchess, Nassau, and Westchester Counties, and New York City, with the exception of Brooklyn. [] knew this situation to

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NY 100-87332

continue up until at least 1949. The American Labor Party never developed into an organization of any real consequence in the non-industrial areas of New York State.

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[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 9, 1955, that the Communist Party today, as in the past, through its members in key positions in the American Labor Party, constitutes the force that controls it.

The National Committee, Communist Party, USA, in issuing its final text on the "Resolution Growing Out of the Presidential Elections" in "Political Affairs", issue of July, 1953, stated in substance that in 1948 the Communist Party helped stimulate the formation of the Progressive Party and correctly supported the Progressive Party through the 1952 Elections.

It then states: "However, the mistake our Party made was to confuse its task with the historic task of forming a new mass party of the people. As a consequence there existed the wrong estimate that the formation of the Progressive Party should be something more than the simple emergence of an important fighting force for peace; that it should be the emergence of a great mass peoples party".

As a result of this reasoning, it concluded that the Progressive Party, the Communist Party, and other progressive forces "must unite in a broad mass front coalition".

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE advised he joined the ALP Club in 1948, the CRC in 1948, the COAA in 1948, and the IWO in 1946 through 1949.

CRUSE advised he joined many of these organizations because the initial fee was nominal and most of the people he was then associated with also joined these organizations. He added that to the best of his knowledge he did not ever attend any meetings of the CRC or the COAA, and he joined the IWO for the health insurance benefits it offered.

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CRUSE advised he attended a Progressive Party Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1948, but did not join the Progressive Party or attend any of its meetings.

c) Knowledge of Aims and Purposes of the Communist Party

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CRUSE advised on June 8, 1955, that he attended a training school for Communist Party leaders, sponsored by the Communist Party, in 1948, or the early part of 1949. He stated that this school was held both at the Jefferson School of Social Science and in a meeting hall located on Astor Place, exact address unknown, both located in New York City. He advised that it was never openly stated that the Communist Party intended to overthrow the Government of the United States by force or violence, but it was implied and it was his belief all members of the Communist Party attending this school were aware of this fact.

d) Communist Party Associates

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE advised on June 8, 1955, that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr. was well known to him and had told him that he was a member of the Communist Party.

It should be noted that BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr. was one of the Communist leaders convicted on October 14, 1949, for violation of the Smith Act in 1940, in Federal District Court, Southern District of New York.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

The subject advised on June 8, 1955, that when he refused to sign a loyalty oath in connection with obtaining a passport in 1952, he did not refuse to sign this oath because of the fact that he did not subscribe to its

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-87332

contents but merely because the State Department was inferring that he wanted the passport for reasons other than he had stated. He stated that at the time he requested this passport he wanted to leave all his associates in the "Communist Party Political Movement", and thought that going to school in another country would be a good reason for severing his relationships.

He added he realized now that the State Department had every reason to believe he had an ulterior motive in requesting a passport in view of his previous actions in connection with the Communist Party.

He also added that he would be glad to sign a loyalty oath at any time in the future if he were ever called upon to do so.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NY 100-87332

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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Documentation of ALP

(request)



Documentation of ALP

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

REFERENCES

Report of SA [redacted] 2/4/55, NY.
NY letter to Director, 6/17/55.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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SAC, New York (100-87332)

December 10, 1956

Director, FBI (100-370842) - 14

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet November 26, 1956.

Authority granted.

This interview should be conducted in such a fashion that this subject will have no basis for using his relationship with the Bureau as a means for selling his book or in any other fashion which is not in the interests of this Bureau.

During the course of your interview with Cruse you should take particular pains so as not to disclose your source of information or any investigative technique.

YELLOW:

Subject has been previously interviewed on several occasions in 1955 and 1956. He has cooperated and on the last interview, 4/12/56, named approximately 12 individuals known to him as CP members during his period of membership, 1947-1952. New York desires to interview him concerning information received from [redacted] feeling that Cruse could elaborate on the significance of the information from this highly confidential source. On the occasion of the last interview with Cruse, Cruse stated he was at that time writing a book. He indicated that the book, while fictional, was to be based on his experiences in the CP. Subject removed from SI 8/15/55. Subject's employment has been that of clerk, hospital attendant. He has been employed by the "Daily Worker." He was a writer and lecturer as of 1950.

OTM:plc
(4)

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/00 BY SPANM/mtf

#930169

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-370842)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-87332)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE, was.
SM - C

DATE: 11/26/56

Re NY letter to the Director 9/15/55.

HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE has been the subject of a security type investigation in the NYO. He was interviewed by Special Agents of the NYO on 6/8/55 at which time he discussed his CP affiliations. The subject at the time of contact was cordial and cooperative. He was subsequently deleted from the SI under the security index review program.

The subject was recontacted by Agents of the NYO on July 13, 1955 and 8/18/55 at which time he again was cooperative but refused to furnish the identities of individuals he had known during his period of activity in the CP.

The subject was last contacted on April 12, 1956 at which time he was again cooperative and supplied the NYO with the names of approximately 12 individuals whom he knew as CP members during his period of CP membership 1947-1952.

On 9/19/56, [redacted] who is in a position to furnish reliable information concerning material maintained in [redacted] (identified as Harlem Region CP [redacted] made available information which is believed to be a compilation of 1951 CP membership registration data. It was noted that this information lists 35 individuals by full name together with sufficient background information for accurate identification. Contained in this listing of 35 individuals is the name "Harold Cruz" who is believed to be identical with the subject.

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In view of the subject's past record of cooperation with this Bureau, it is felt that contact with him at this time would more accurately determine the nature of the information received from [redacted]

- 2- Bureau (100-370842) (RM)
- 1- New York (100-68478 Sub B) [redacted]
- 1- New York (100-87332)

4 NOV 28 1956

JJJ:mel
(4)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP
DEC 3 30 5001 SP2 AM/ML
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SUBV. CONTROL

NY 100-87332

It is believed that additional pertinent information concerning CP activity may be obtained concerning the 34 individuals mentioned in this material.

However, it is noted that in the contact with CRUSE, had on April 12, 1956, CRUSE stated that he was at that time writing a book. The subject indicated that the book while fictional would be based on his experiences in the CP.

In view of the above information, Bureau authority is requested to contact CRUSE in an effort to clarify and amplify the information furnished by

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-370842)

DATE: 1/21/57

FROM : SAC, New York (100-87332)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE
SM-C

ReBulet to NY 12/10/56.

Subject was interviewed by SAS [redacted] and
[redacted] on 12/27/56.

The subject was contacted at his home and was advised of the identities of the Agents. The subject stated that he did not desire to have any further contact with representatives of this Bureau. CRUSE said that he had given considerable thought to his position with regard to his prior affiliations, and that he felt that he could not personally gain by cooperating with representatives of the Federal Government. CRUSE added that inasmuch as he could see no opportunity for personal gain by speaking with Agents of this Bureau, that he desired to have no further contact with them.

The subject was reminded of his responsibilities as a citizen of the United States to cooperate with Federal authorities. The subject reiterated that in view of the fact that he did not see where he could gain personally by speaking to this Bureau, he would refuse to do so at this time and at any time in the future.

In connection with the subject's actions at the time of contact, it should be noted that [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on 12/17/56 that the informant had attended the evening performance of the play "Candide" at the Martin Beck Theatre in NYC. [redacted]

[redacted] The informant stated that among those whom he saw at the theatre at that time was the subject.

In view of the above, it is not anticipated that the subject will be recontacted.

This matter is being placed in a closed status in the NYO.

- ② - Bureau (100-370842) (RM)
1 - New York (100-68478) Sub B
1 - New York (100-87332)

RECORDED-3/100-370842-15
#12-16)

JJJ:cc
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/20 BY SP2 am/mf

JAN 29 1957

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#930169

SUBV. CONTROL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

KIT
Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

DATE: May 1, 1968

FROM : *WCS*

SUBJECT: **BOOK REVIEW: "THE CRISIS OF THE
NEGRO INTELLECTUAL" BY HAROLD CRUSE
RACIAL MATTER**

[Handwritten initials and signatures]
Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan *WCS*
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Captioned book was reviewed for background material concerning the racial situation in America.

AUTHOR:

b7C
Harold Cruse is a Negro who was born in Petersburg, Virginia, according to a note about the author in captioned book. He was raised in Virginia and New York City and has been a critic and writer since the end of World War II. This is his first book. Bureau files show that a Harold Cruse, born in Petersburg, Va., residing in New York City, and employed as a writer, was a member of the Communist Party in 1947. He was interviewed and furnished limited information about his Party activities but refused to name his associates in the Party. This Cruse appears identical to the author, although a definite conclusion cannot be made without more data concerning the author. *B*

BOOK:

The central theme of this book is that it is not possible for the Negro to be integrated in America because America itself is not integrated. The author feels America is dominated by three separate groups, white Protestants, white Catholics and white Jews, which are not integrated. Thus, the Negro could never be integrated.

- REC-69*
① - 100-370842 (Harold Wright Cruse)
1 - 62-46855 (Book Review File)
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

ST-103
CONTINUED - OVER 10 MAY 8, 1968

TJD:mrn
(9)

54 MAY 15 1968 *54*

100-370842-16
5-1021
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/30/2001 BY SP-11111
#938169

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: BOOK REVIEW: "THE CRISIS OF THE
NEGRO INTELLECTUAL"

The book traces the history of various movements, the "Back to Africa" movement, the separate nation movement and the integration movement. He concentrates on the philosophy of each movement as it relates to the Negro intellectual. Cruse claims the Negro intellectual has failed to define Negro goals.

Cruse is a black nationalist, as opposed to an integrationist, and one review of his book noted that it is a "polemical thrust against the advocates of integration, who, he asserts, have misdirected Negroes from truly radical and creative goals."

However, this book is also a history of various Negro movements in this country, up to and including the Malcolm X influence. Malcolm X was a militant black nationalist leader who was assassinated. As a history, this book contains material of reference value in studying the history of black nationalism in America.

MENTION OF THE FBI:

Neither the FBI nor the Director is mentioned.

ACTION:

That this book be maintained in the Bureau Library for reference purposes.

oo 1 M PR MC 4/2/68 D

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Harold Cruise

b7C

3/30/2001 per [redacted]
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ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-370842)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-87332) (C)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE
SM-C
(OO: NY)

DATE: 9/30/68

10-7

Re Passport Office memo, dated 8/6/68.

Referenced memo reflects subject renewed his passport at New York, in July, 1968, and indicated that his travel plans were unknown.

b7C

On 9/26/68, SA [redacted] contacted the subject at his residence under the guise of a travel agency seeking to handle travel arrangements for any trips he has planned for the future. Subject advised he has no current plans to travel outside of the United States, in that, he is busy with writing and has several lectures scheduled in the future.

In view of the above, no further action is being taken in this case at this time.

REG-57 100-370842-17

EX-105

18 OCT 2 1968

2-Bureau (RM)
1-New York

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#930169

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM :

SUBJECT: BOOK REVIEW
"REBELLION OR REVOLUTION"
BY HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE
RACIAL MATTERS

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: January 9, 1969

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Tolson ☒
DeLoach ☒
Mohr ☒
Bishop ☒
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Callahan ☒
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Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

This memorandum presents a review of captioned book published in 1968 by William Morrow and Company, Incorporated, which is being placed in the Bureau library.

SYNOPSIS:

Harold Wright Cruse, born March 8, 1916, at Petersburg, Virginia, is a Negro writer and critic. He is a former member of the Communist Party which he left in 1952. His book "Rebellion or Revolution" centers on the attainment of cultural equality for the Negro and examines the impact various leaders, writers, thinkers, performers, and organizations have had on the Negro movement. No mention is made in this book of the Director or the FBI.

ACTION:

For information.

1 - 100-370842 (Harold Wright Cruse)
1 - 62-46855 (Book Review File)

EMJ:bkb
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DETAILS PAGE TWO 17 JAN 22 1969

RACIAL INT. SECT.

b7C

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: BOOK REVIEW
"REBELLION OR REVOLUTION"
BY HAROLD WRIGHT CRUSE

DETAILS:

REVIEW OF BUREAU FILES

Harold Wright Cruse is a Negro, born March 8, 1916, at Petersburg, Virginia. He served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1945 receiving an honorable discharge. He has been a writer and critic since World War II and a member of the Communist Party from 1947 to 1952. He was employed by the Daily Worker for which paper he wrote reviews from 1949 to 1951. He was removed from the Security Index in 1955 and has been interviewed several times by the FBI but furnished only limited information concerning his Communist Party activities. This is the second book by Cruse, the first being the "Crisis of the Negro Intellectual" which was reviewed by the Domestic Intelligence Division on May 1, 1968.

BOOK REVIEW

The central theme of this book is that the Negro movement in this country before it can become a revolutionary movement must first attain cultural equality in the fields of art, film, theater, radio, television, and music.

Throughout the book Cruse is critical of the Communist Party for its grave mishandling of the Negro question and its lack of understanding of the Negro movement which he also offers as his reasons for leaving the Party.

The book traces the history of the Negro movement examining and endeavoring to explain the impact that the various leaders, writers, thinkers, performers, and organizations have had on the movement. In this regard, the book contains material of reference value concerning the history of the Negro movement in America.

MENTION OF THE FBI

Neither the Director nor the FBI are mentioned in this book.

Black Doctrinist

By Robert C. Maynard

Washington Post Staff Writer

IN GENERAL, Harold Cruse's work is like a big, tough steak: difficult to chew — and swallow—but too flavorful to put aside. This particular book is warmed-over chuck, without the succulence of his first published book, "Crisis of the Negro Intellectual."

Cruse comes to us from a previous generation of Negro radicalism, the left-wing movement of the 1940s and 1950s. That was an age deeply concerned with social theory and it drowned itself in arguments over dialectic. Although Cruse had a bitter falling out with the Communists, he is, to state it flatly, still hung up with a movement that time has passed by.

We are treated, for example, to old Daily Worker reviews that caused Cruse some trouble with the party hacks. Reading them now, the reader is forced to ask, Why? Why must we go through all of that again? Cruse squares off against irrelevancy and demolishes it, but one is never certain why he bothers.

RETELLING the tale of the bruising experience of being a Negro Communist, Cruse sheds a little light on the question of why he belabors his unhappy Party past.

"It was not until my two theater reviews appeared that the Communist bigwigs began to writhe uncomfortably and question my 'cultural ideology.' Their general response was a serious blow to my blooming critical ego."

That ego finally suffered to the point where Cruse remained silent for many years, taking in everything around him with his hungry, capacious mind but writing little that was published until last year, when "Crisis" appeared. There, as in the present book, he was concerned with the influence of white radicals on black radicals, but he did have a point that was important to make: Political colonialism of either the left or the right was damaging to the need for blacks to define their own political course.

In that book, as in this one, Cruse seeks to define a standard of revolutionary development and he is disappointed with the lack of

Book Review 'Rebellion or Revolution'

By Harold Cruse (Morrow, 272 pp., \$6.95).

historical orientation that marks the thought of today's black radicals. Holding to a high socialist theoretical standard, he chides the current crop of radicals, saying, "to make capitalistic reformism even more persuasive as dominant practice, the Black Powerites demand it programmatically. What kind of social methodology, then, can transcend this state of affairs?"

"Then there is the question of the revolutionary anarchism of the urban guerrillas' 'Black Power wing.' He is after social theory, dialectic, again. He wants the movement to have some historical perspective, a definition that can be relied upon."

He regards it as somewhat appalling that the social theory flows from action on the streets, and he sees in this a real danger of blacks being misled. He understands, but is impatient with, the anger and the urgency that cause the movement today to strike first and theorize later.

THE BOOK is a curious one, filled as it is with arguments from the radical movement of the past. More than half its pages are concerned with Cruse's battles against the orthodox and tired socialists whose names most newspaper readers of today would hardly even recognize. He belabors the "revisionism" of Edward Bernstein, linking it with today's black power activism.

Cruse stands almost alone as a social critic using what are basically 19th century tenets to discuss the current American black movement. It is possible that at some point in the future, Cruse will become to the movement what Fanon is, but this could only occur if the movement becomes much more doctrinaire than it now is.

1968, The Washington Post Co.

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New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date DEC 3 1968

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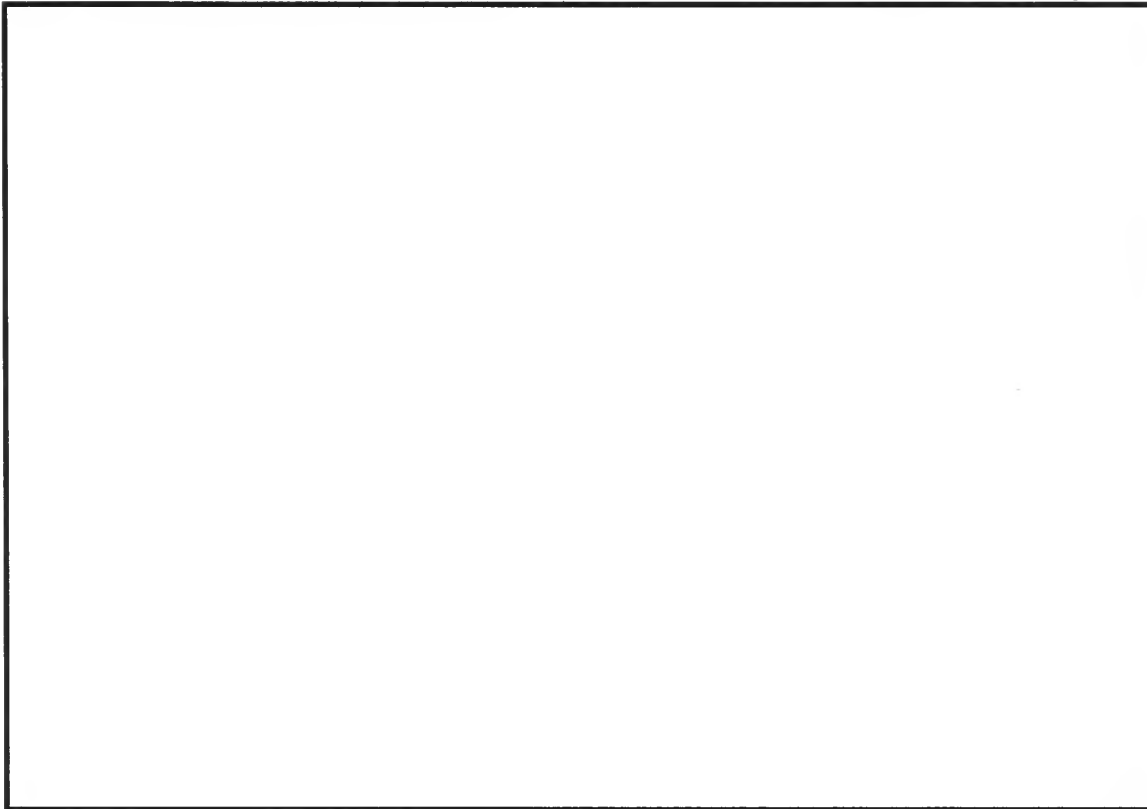


DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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August 6, 1968



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